Presidential Volunteer Service Award

A total of 34 students received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award on Thursday, October 20, 2011 after the all school mass. This is an award given out every year to candidates who meet the criteria. The award includes a pin (bronze, silver, or gold), a personalized certificate, and a letter from the president.

The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation was established in 2003 to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers make in their communities and to encourage more people to serve.

The recognized students performed a variety of services. Many were camp counselors over the summer or at camp SOAR. Other services included tutoring and volunteering at their local parish.

The award requires a certain amount of hours you need for each level, depending on your age. In most cases the students who earned the award either fell under the kids category (age 5-14) or the young adult category (15-25).

Junior Ryan Francis, a bronze award winner this year, said, “I got gold last year, but because I was younger and only had to do about 100. This year I got the bronze and submitted around 150 hours doing Faith Formation class, camp SOAR, and tutoring at St. Matt’s and a few others on the side.”

Junior Katy Klochany, a Silver award winner this year said, “I submitted about 200 hours. I am a Confirmation Peer Minister, and was on the planning team for the Just Cause Fast. I won bronze last year, and silver this year, and hopefully I get gold next year.”

Another silver award winner, Senior Melanie Runkle also had volunteer hours for her parish as well as Campus Ministry. She said “It all add up really fast, I only thought I had 120, but then I realized there’s more.”

One of the gold award winners, Junior Seth Tirrel submitted 200 hours through Camp and food banks. He fell under the kid category because he had submitted his hours while he was 14, and he had received the award last year too. He said “it was nice to get it again”.

For more information on this award and how to qualify and submit your hours to receive it, you can visit guidance counselor Mr. Causebrook or visit the President’s Volunteer Service Award’s website at www.presidentialserviceawards.gov. If you need hours too, you can also visit the bulletin board located outside Campus Ministry.